The staff for the several offices was fixed with due regard to the actual requirements in each office during the re-organisation of the Department and the number of hands allowed then was the irreducible minimum. I may inform the House that the work in the several offices is only increasing day by day, and any attempt to reduce the staff in the offices is sure to prove detrimental to the proper working of the Department. The Dewan Peishkars have reported that the work in their offices suffers a good deal owing to paucity of hands, and it is only reasonable to grant their request by restoring the staff now disbanded. I may assure the House that, if nothing is done at present, arrears will accumulate and we will be forced to allow a temporary or special staff for the clearance of arrears in these offices being created periodically. As I have already stated, the staff fixed at the time of the re-organisation was the irreducible minimum and it cannot be reduced any further. The staff disbanded from the Division Cutcherries has to be re-entertained and the amount now asked for is to cover the pay of the 7 clerks for a period of 5 months. With the return of Mr. Cameron from leave on 23rd Dhanu, 1100, Mr. Macmillan has reverted to the British service and no one has been appointed in his place. The pay of that officer for the remaining months of the year is a saving in the Division budget and the sum of Rs. 800 required to meet the pay of the disbanded clerks proposed to be re-entertained can very well be met from the savings.

I think that I have explained clearly the necessity for restoring the disbanded staff and I hope that the House will readily allow the supplementary grant asked for.

The grant was made.

DEMAND III—EXCISE.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 9,810 under Demand III—Excise. This amount is made up of three items. One is Rs. 750 for the payment of T. A. to the non-official members of the Excise Committee. The members of the Excise Committee had to be paid for their journeys to attend the meetings of the Excise Committee; and the amount that had to be paid is Rs. 750. This expenditure has been met from the allotment made to the Department under T. A. to officers and it has to be recouped, because the allotment will not otherwise suffice to meet the legitimate demand.

The second item, Rs. 260, is for the entertainment of a temporary staff of 2 Petty Officers on Rs. 20 each per mensem and one peon on Rs. 12 per mensem from the 1st Kumbham, 1100 in the Alleppey Customs House. I am glad to say that, under this item, there will be no extra expenditure to Government. Three men are wanted at the pier for tallying the goods passed for export. This is an important work and s now being done by the customs tindal and his men in addition to their egitimate duty which is to board every vessel on arrival and bring information regarding nationality, tonnage, etc., of the vessal. They are

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

not required any more for this work, and so they are to be disbanded. Their cost at present is Rs. 52 per mensem. It is therefore porposed to utilise this saving for the entertainment of two Petty Officers and one peon who will do the tallying work in future. There will be no extra expenditure.

The third item is Rs.8,800 for the repair of damages to Excise buildings caused by the floods of Karkatakam, 1099. The printed list supplied to the members will give the information as to the damages that have taken place and the stations which require repair. I hope the House will be good enough to pass the demand.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to move Demand No. VII—General Administration—for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3,315. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 1,315 is intended to cover the establishment and contingent charges in connection with the clearance of arrears in the English Records Office. I believe the House is aware that a Special Officer with a staff consisting of four clerks on Rs. 40 each, one typist on Rs 25 and 2 peons on Rs. 9 each, per mensem have been attending to this work during the past 10 or 11 months under the supervision of the Director of Office Systems. Considerable progress has been made in this direction, that is to say, in separating important papers from unimportant ones, in sorting, arranging and listing important papers, in indexing them and in destroying the unimportant and obsolete ones. Still a large quantity of work remains to be done. It is not, however, proposed to extend the term of appointment of the Director of Office Systems, but it is very necessary to continue the Special Officer and staff till the close of the year to get through the balance of work.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know what the Special Officer was, when he was sent out from the Huzur, Office to act as Tahsildar?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe he was a clerk.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know what pay he was drawing then?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not remember.

PRESIDENT: How does it arise, Mr. Hoogewerf? The question is only whether the Special Officer has completed the work.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The sum asked for is on account of the cost of the establishment working under the Special Officer and the contingent charges.

Another sum of Rs. 2,000 has to be provided on account of election charges. There is already a provision of Rs. 2,000 in

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